

1883

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REPORT
OF
THE COMPTROLLER
OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA,
FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1883.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.
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1884.

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COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1883,
BEGINNING JANUARY 1 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31.

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REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, January 1, 1884. }

To His Excellency WM. D. BLOXHAM,
Governor of Florida:

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith my annual report, as required by law, for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 1883.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AT THE STATE TREASURY.

The following statement shows the financial transactions at the State Treasury on account of General Revenue and General and Special Sinking Fund and Interest Taxes:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1st 1883.		
" " " in General Sinking Fund and Interest Tax Account.....	\$15,806 44	
Balance on hand in General and Special Sinking Fund and Interest Tax Account.....	6,182 29	
Balance on hand in Special Sinking Fund and Interest Tax Account.....	25,545 66	
Balance on hand in General Revenue Account.....	30,706 02—	\$78,240 41
General Revenue 1883.....	\$10,379 23	
" " 1882.....	148,956 83	
" " 1881.....	6,356 89	
" " 1880.....	374 23	
" " 1879.....	21 91	
" " 1878.....	27 72	
" " 1877.....	22 75	
License Tax.....	100,149 27	
Auction Tax.....	464 88	
Criminal Prosecutions (costs).....	477 05	
Sale of Digest and Laws.....	40 00	
Commission Tax.....	2,752 00	
Hire of Convicts.....	4,930 00—	\$274,952 76
General and Special Sinking Fund and Interest Taxes		
Assessment 1882.....	\$64,716 72	
" 1881.....	2,679 06	
" 1880.....	235 09	
" 1879.....	21 91	
" 1878.....	17 85	
" 1877.....	14 63—	\$67,685 26
		<u>\$420,878 48</u>

PAYMENTS.

Salaries Executive Department.....	\$20,100 00
Salaries Judicial Department.....	33,346 49
Contingent Expenses of State.....	2,466 84
Stationery Executive and Legislative Departments.....	531 22
Expenses Collection of Revenue.....	25,127 56
Expenses Bureau of Immigration.....	2,544 35
Post Mortem Examinations.....	200 00
Printing.....	17,169 08
Maintenance of Lunatics.....	32,843 30
Jurors and Witnesses.....	52,632 57
Contingent Expenses Supreme Court.....	1,618 34
Watchman at Capitol.....	582 75
Janitor at Capitol.....	311 00
Repairs of Capitol.....	228 31
Expenses of Committee to Investigate Bonds of 1873.....	23 25
Expenses Legislature of 1883.....	53,823 58
Contingent Expenses Superintendent Public Instruction.....	500 00
Contingent Expenses of Capitol.....	998 48
Expenses of Railroad Litigation.....	552 70
Legislative Relief Acts.....	950 37
Rewards for Arrest of Fugitives from Justice.....	350 00
Criminal Prosecutions.....	198 12
Expenses Atlanta Exposition in 1881.....	725 00
Conveying Prisoners to Penitentiary 1878.....	17 50
Preservation Battle Flags Florida Regiments.....	50 00
Completing List of State and United States Land entries.....	988 35
Expenses Normal Schools 1883.....	1,073 15
Indian Hostilities 1849.....	57 60
Conviction Fees State Attorneys.....	765 00
Expenses Teachers' Institute 1883.....	473 65—\$251,278 56
Interest on Bonds of 1871 and 1873.....	80,566 67
Balance on hand in:	
General Revenue Account.....	\$54,280 22
General and Special Sinking Fund and Interest Tax Account.....	34,652 98—\$89,033 20
	\$420,878 43

WARRANTS ISSUED.

The total amount of warrants issued during the year is \$251,075.85.

They are under the heads of Expenditure, as follows:

Maintenance of Lunatics.....	\$32,620 17
Salaries Executive Department.....	19,600 00
Salaries Judicial Department.....	33,358 49
Printing.....	6,040 49
Jurors and Witnesses.....	53,411 12
Expenses of Legislature.....	53,823 58
Expenses of Legislature for Printing.....	10,799 08
Contingent Expenses of State.....	2,498 99
Janitor at Capitol.....	311 00
Watchman at Capitol.....	582 75
Contingent Expenses of Supreme Court.....	1,621 34
Contingent Expenses of Capitol.....	1,001 23
Repairs of Capitol.....	177 32
Expenses Bureau of Immigration.....	2,754 40
Stationery for Executive and Legislative Departments.....	532 96
Post Mortem Examinations.....	200 00
Expenses of Committee to Investigate the issue of the bonds of 1873.....	23 25

Expenses Collection of Revenue.....	24,945 74
Rewards for Arresting Fugitives from Justice.....	350 00
Criminal Prosecutions.....	198 12
For Completion of Lists of State and United States Land Entries.....	988 35
Expenses of Railroad Tax Litigation.....	582 70
Expenses of Normal Schools.....	1,073 15
Expenses of Atlanta Exposition of 1881.....	725 00
Act for the Preservation of the Battle Flags of the Florida Regiments, &c.....	50 00
Expenses of Teachers' Institute.....	473 65
Contingent Expenses of Superintendent of Public Instruction.....	500 00
Conviction fees of State Attorneys payable out of moneys realized from hire of convicts.....	765 00
Comptroller's Certificates for Indian Hostilities of 1849.....	57 60
Act for the Relief of M Lively.....	257 88
" " " " Tabitha J S Colson.....	300 00
" " " " Drs H L Roberts and E A Todd.....	100 00
" " " " John Davidson, late Assessor of Polk county.....	179 00
" " " " Mrs Hannah Johnston.....	25 00
" " " " James E Sykes, late Assessor of Holmes county.....	46 44
" " " " Geo H Mays.....	27 50
" " " " James A Pickett, Jr, of Duval county.....	14 55—\$251,075 85

BONDED DEBT.

The bonded debt is as follows:

7 per cent. bonds of 1871.....	\$350,000 00
6 per cent. bonds of 1873.....	925,000 00
8 per cent. Convention bonds.....	1,500 00—\$1,276,500 00
In Sinking Funds.....	\$160,000 00
In School Fund.....	304,800 00
In Seminary Fund.....	89,400 00
In Agricultural College Fund.....	134,800 00—\$689,000 00
Leaving in the hands of individuals.....	\$587,500 00

In addition to the \$160,000 of Florida bonds in the Sinking Funds there are \$19,000 in United States 4 per cent. bonds.

REPORT OF STATE TAXES ON LANDS

Sold for Taxes and Bought in for the State in the Year 1883, in the following Counties, as reported to the Comptroller's Office:

Alachua.....	\$2,148 08	Lafayette.....	\$214 62
Baker.....	.....	Marion.....	225 13
Bradford.....	135 77	Monroe.....	235 03
Brevard.....	82 07	Madison.....	69 12
Calhoun.....	.....	Manatee.....	.....
Columbia.....	143 67	Nassau.....	176 88
Clay.....	80 98	Orange.....	182 41
Duval.....	1,947 71	Polk.....	.....
Dade.....	110 00	Putnam.....	362 19
Escambia.....	18 87	Suwannee.....	16 94
Franklin.....	29 84	Sumter.....	382 71
Gadsden.....	44 85	Santa Rosa.....	.....
Hillsborough.....	29 60	St. Johns.....	.....
Hernando.....	185 36	Taylor.....	1 12
Holmes.....	.....	Volusia.....	222 22
Hamilton.....	2 11	Wakulla.....	32 59
Jefferson.....	34 85	Walton.....	.....
Jackson.....	13 32	Washington.....	.....
Levy.....	5 10		
Leon.....	.....		\$7,255 61
Liberty.....	122 47		

There has been \$12,618.79 received and paid into the State Treasury on account of redemption of lands since January 1st, 1882, viz:

In the year 1882.....	\$6,125 25
In the year 1883.....	6,493 54— \$12,618 79

The table of assessments hereto attached shows a gratifying increase in the taxable resources of the State, and is an evidence of the steady advancement of the material prosperity of the people. From \$31,157,846 in 1880, the taxable property of the State has grown to \$55,249,311 in 1883; and it will be safe to estimate that it will exceed \$60,000,000 for the year 1884. A portion of this increase (amounting to \$4,735,699) is due to the fact that *all* railroad property now goes upon the tax books, and becomes an additional source of revenue. Since the last report from this office, the question so long in doubt, of the liability of certain railroads to taxation, has been settled by the courts of last resort, and they are now required to contribute their part to the support of the government.

RATE OF TAXATION.

It will be remembered that at the last session of the Legislature it was suggested by this department, and recommended in the Message of your Excellency, that the rate of taxation for State purposes be fixed at four mills for 1883 and 1884. Notwithstanding the increase in the appropriations, which were deemed to be proper by the Legislature, and a subsequent slight decrease in the income from the occupation tax, the finan-

cial condition of the State is such as to justify a further reduction in the rate of taxation for the year 1884, and as your Excellency has wisely directed, it is provided that a levy of only three mills be made the present year to meet the appropriations, including the interest on the public debt.

BONDED DEBT.

Recurring to the bonded debt statement, it will be seen that more than half of our indebtedness (by about \$100,000) is held in the several funds of the State, leaving in outside hands only \$587,500. And it may be observed that this amount would be even less than it is were it not that the high price these securities bear, and their scarcity in market, render it difficult to procure them at all, and making it necessary for the Treasurer to seek investments in the bonds of other States, as will be seen by reference to his report. This additional evidence of the healthy financial condition of the State must be gratifying to every citizen within its borders.

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

The revenue for the year 1882 has been collected with unusual promptness, and it is a pleasure to speak of the efficiency with which the Collectors have generally discharged the delicate duties of their office, and the readiness of the people in responding to the demands upon them for the support of their government. In this connection it is well to state that much of the past due taxes, represented by tax sale certificates held for redemption, has been paid, amounting, as is shown by the table, to the sum of \$12,618.79 for the years 1882 and 1883.

ASSESSING TAXES.

As a correct and efficient assessment of the property subject to taxation is the foundation of our revenue, and consequently the support of the machinery of the government, it is of the first importance that those who are entrusted with the exercise of this responsible duty should be of sound judgment and good business qualifications. There is no more important office in the State than that of Assessor of Taxes. And the difficulties which they have to meet in the discharge of their duties are fully recognized in this department. A majority of the present incumbents have done their work in a creditable and satisfactory manner; and it is hoped that those who have been less successful will make greater efforts to come up to the requirements of the law, and the demands of the responsible positions held by them. Very respectfully,

W. D. BARNES, Comptroller.

**VALUE OF PROPERTY, with Gross and Net Amount State Taxes, Assessed for the Year 1883,
including Licenses and Amount of Auction Tax.**

COUNTIES.	Assessed Value of Property.	GROSS ASSESSMENT.					County Tax Proper.	County School.	County Special.	Total for County Purposes.
		General Revenue. State Tax.	School Fund.	Total Gross.	Total Net after deduct- ing insuranc- es, &c.	Licenses.				
ALACHUA.....	\$3,041,550	\$12,954.66	\$3,012.29	\$15,966.95	\$14,370.26	\$3,546.20	\$9,908.33	\$9,126.87	\$18,253.74	\$37,288.94
BAKER.....	554,308	2,330.51	554.64	2,885.15	2,596.64	495.00	2,530.51	1,386.22	2,217.84	5,934.57
BREVARD.....	1,092,734	4,782.34	1,092.78	5,875.12	5,287.61	1,500.84	2,596.98	2,185.40	1,092.77	5,875.15
CALHOUN.....	793,455	3,330.81	794.55	4,125.36	3,712.83	182.52	3,330.81	2,381.41	3,173.81	8,886.03
COLUMBIA.....	202,976	954.41	202.99	1,157.40	1,041.66	90.00	1,766.42	608.95	608.93	2,984.30
CLAY.....	1,188,542	5,507.27	1,170.36	6,677.63	6,009.87	2,037.24	5,507.27	2,922.61	4,091.82	12,521.70
DADE.....	960,906	4,160.79	960.69	5,121.48	4,609.34	1,126.34	2,717.41	2,403.99	2,882.44	8,003.84
DADE.....	5,900,440	25,846.76	5,900.44	31,747.20	28,572.48	15,801.42	25,846.76	17,701.32	17,701.32	61,249.40
DECATUR.....	63,978	288.36	64.13	352.49	317.25	20.00	288.36	159.70	158.51	606.60
DECATUR.....	3,491,140	14,523.68	3,493.93	18,017.61	16,215.85	15,672.85	11,039.68	10,474.91	13,966.51	35,481.10
FRANKLIN.....	320,555	1,469.78	321.20	1,790.98	1,611.89	1,287.99	1,167.28	1,283.07	321.94	3,072.29
GADSDEN.....	1,008,286	4,791.64	1,008.29	5,799.93	5,138.94	1,552.15	3,189.21	3,529.00	2,016.57	8,734.78
HILLSBORO.....	1,595,385	6,915.04	1,596.87	8,511.91	7,660.72	1,517.10	3,724.27	3,986.24	696.91	7,710.51
HERNANDO.....	1,337,342	6,129.58	1,392.20	7,521.78	6,769.61	873.45	4,39.16	4,174.16	696.91	9,610.23
HOLMES.....	345,533	1,554.66	346.07	1,900.73	1,710.66	673.01	1,554.66	1,037.05	1,037.07	3,628.78
HAMILTON.....	1,017,296	4,660.10	1,018.83	5,678.93	5,111.04	1,390.13	3,136.11	2,545.13	2,545.13	8,226.37
JACKSON.....	1,660,330	7,263.36	1,660.34	8,923.70	8,031.33	2,997.52	7,263.36	2,490.50	9,962.04	19,715.90
JEFFERSON.....	1,561,880	7,597.62	1,561.88	9,159.50	8,243.55	1,753.72	6,816.17	3,909.75	7,817.95	18,543.87
LEVY.....	1,120,786	4,832.70	1,120.71	5,953.41	5,358.07	2,840.15	3,151.87	4,482.71	560.11	8,194.69
LEON.....	1,965,005	8,389.16	1,972.10	10,361.26	9,325.14	1,954.50	7,407.44	4,943.85	12,804.00	25,165.29
LIBERTY.....	300,622	1,367.87	300.87	1,668.74	1,455.07	20.00	1,314.91	751.71	1,201.43	3,268.05
LAFAYETTE.....	414,030	1,894.57	416.92	2,311.49	2,080.35	845.54	1,894.57	1,636.57	1,245.15	4,796.29
MARION.....	2,901,559	12,667.24	2,901.56	15,568.80	14,011.92	2,728.02	9,765.68	10,155.44	15,958.57	25,879.69
MONROE.....	1,403,458	5,922.83	1,403.45	7,326.28	6,593.66	4,219.87	5,922.83	5,613.83	8,483.51	11,536.66
MADISON.....	1,542,450	7,062.80	1,542.45	8,605.25	7,744.73	1,857.27	7,062.80	3,856.09	2,012.71	19,402.40
MANATEE.....	1,339,999	5,704.46	1,339.99	7,044.45	6,349.01	977.07	3,024.98	4,019.97	3,726.60	9,057.66
NASSAU.....	1,839,432	7,796.76	1,867.83	9,664.59	8,694.14	4,129.15	7,796.76	5,582.40	10,256.96	17,105.77
ORANGE.....	3,438,089	14,593.59	3,439.06	18,032.65	16,220.39	3,247.05	14,360.76	13,694.31	10,256.96	38,312.02
POLK.....	1,039,909	4,441.14	1,039.91	5,481.05	4,932.95	917.01	2,887.77	2,606.27	5,725.99	11,220.02
PUTNAM.....	2,535,963	11,069.35	2,535.97	13,605.32	12,244.79	3,836.67	11,069.35	6,346.78	6,336.03	23,752.16
SUWANNEE.....	1,386,381	6,327.78	1,388.28	7,716.06	6,944.46	2,352.46	6,437.78	3,573.40	2,087.22	11,988.40
SUMTER.....	2,030,851	8,664.28	2,033.80	10,698.08	9,628.28	970.26	6,636.78	8,123.28	6,115.47	20,875.53
SANTA ROSA.....	1,238,320	5,571.78	1,238.32	6,810.10	6,129.09	1,475.40	5,571.78	4,953.28	2,475.64	13,000.70
ST. JOHNS.....	999,315	4,433.25	1,001.62	5,434.87	4,891.39	3,251.72	3,436.08	3,997.25	1,085.72	8,439.05
TAYLOR.....	261,868	1,223.47	264.41	1,487.88	1,339.10	96.67	3,306.38	657.21	526.43	4,490.02
VOLUSIA.....	1,815,904	8,163.62	1,816.91	9,980.53	8,982.48	1,500.38	8,183.62	7,263.62	10,896.01	26,343.25
WAKULLA.....	426,810	1,916.19	427.76	2,343.95	2,109.56	407.90	1,703.55	1,281.50	1,281.40	4,266.45
WALTON.....	679,550	3,086.50	678.09	3,764.59	3,388.14	249.80	2,394.83	2,026.60	1,017.23	5,438.66
WASHINGTON.....	412,484	1,956.55	414.81	2,371.36	2,134.23	140.00	1,956.55	1,651.07	2,068.63	5,676.23
Total	55,249,311	242,005.26	55,297.30	297,302.56	267,572.48	89,474.47	212,399.83	169,543.42	184,330.14	566,273.39
Add Licenses received from Insurance Companies, &c.					10,674.80					
Total						\$100,149.27				

Received from Auction Tax, \$464.88.

WILLIAM D. BARNES, Comptroller.

**Missing
Year(s)**